



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 28.38 Thursday, September 22, 2022 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Belleville gets \$490,000 grant for fire truck

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council, Fire Chief Brian Loranger announced that the city has been given a \$490,000 federal grant for a new fire truck.

He said he was Up North over the weekend and he got a call from Chris Wiggins, who had prepared the grant, to tell him they had succeed.

He told the city council that it is a 5% matching grant, with the federal government giving \$466,666 and the city supplying \$23,333. He said they have been working on a grant for five years.

He said this truck will replace the 1989 truck that has a stick shift and has been a problem for young fire fighters to drive. He said the last time the city got a new truck was in 1998.

Chief Loranger said he got a call from Congressman Gary Peters for details on the truck.

Loranger said the cost of fire trucks has been rising regularly so he thinks this truck actually may cost more.

In other business at the 44-minute meeting, the council:

- Held a public hearing and then passed an amendment to a city ordinance on Juvenile Responsibility, which mirrors state law but makes city officers able to write it up under local ordinance. It raises the use of tobacco products from 18 years of age to 21 and raises the age to 18 when a person can have repeated absences from school;

- Approved the Witches' Ball, a fundraiser for Guiding Harbour (Girlstown), put on by Egan's Pub under a tent in the Fourth Street Square from 6 p.m. until midnight on Oct. 28. Angel Food Catering will provide snacks and there will be a DJ

(continued on page 9)



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Jim Piper was given a rousing sendoff at Monday's Belleville City Council meeting following his resignation after seven years as a Reserve Police Officer. Uniformed members of the police department and reserves attended the meeting to show their respect for Piper, who Police Chief Dave Robinson praised as an outstanding officer he could depend on to do any tasks anytime asked, including getting up in the middle of the night to guard a suspect at the hospital, freeing up the full-time officers for their work. Chief Robinson said when he came to the city, he found a group of reserves that helped the department in many, important ways. Piper and another Mason and their wives will continue to deliver food to Belleville residents as part of a city program.



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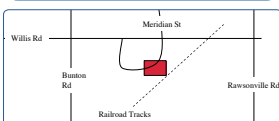
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

BHS All-Class Reunion



At Saturday's All-Class Reunion, former School Supt. James Richendollar tells the alumni of the book written about him by Jerry LaVaute, seated, that will soon be published. The title, "Promise Kept," refers to getting a scholarship to Hillsdale College.



BHS alumni from left are Millie Mida Baker, class of 1944; Mark Slagle with his mother Mary Carol Van Buhler, 1950; Theresa Polzen Schwaln, 1950; Shirley Porzondek Carnahan, 1950; and Jean Morris, 1948.



Members of the BHS Class of 1957 celebrated their 65th reunion.



Photo courtesy of Leonard Silvenius
The BHS Class of 1964 posed for a photo at Saturday's annual All-Class Reunion, the first reunion after being shut down for two years by the pandemic.



Nine members of the Belleville High School Class of 1954 pose for a picture after dinner at Saturday's All Class Reunion at BHS to celebrate their 68th year as classmates. From left standing are Jerry Lukomski, George Taylor and his wife Esther Paylor Taylor who is in the class, Hugh McArthur, Lois Mida Zilka, and Rosemary Kuchta Otzman. Seated, from left are Fred Knofski, Earlene Allen, Connie Watts, and Valera Haft.



Betty McKelvey Fleming, BHS Class of 1953, is seated with her husband Ray Fleming, who graduated from Ypsilanti High School. Standing from left are Virginia Wisnieski Miller and Harold Smith, both BHS Class of 1952.

Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Belleville growing as cultural center

The plan to bring the Detroit Institute of Art's Inside/Out Art installation back to the City of Belleville is yet another step in the growing reputation of Belleville as an artsy community. Most of this culture we're getting winds around the Belleville Area Council for the Arts and the people leading it that plan one thing after another to encourage us to enjoy the arts.

Besides Monday's city council approval of having about ten framed reproductions of paintings by the Great Masters installed around town for the 2023 summer season, we are alerted that we can learn all about Van Gogh without much effort. First, there's the free movie about him at the library and then the low-cost bus trip to view the special exhibit at the DIA in downtown Detroit. No parking. No fuss.

Our beautiful new library is an art-filled cultural center and welcomes the community to use the building in unending ways. We have community art banners hanging from our streetlights, sculptures of all kinds in the parks and on the streets. The ducks in Horizon Park, painted by local people for the fun of it, are an annual treat.

The BACA Community Art show is encouraging people to enter their artworks for next month's show and the Community Chorus is starting to rehearse for its next concert. Egan's Pub has announced it is saving the "ghost sign" it found and will preserve it. When it's no longer a sign for a business, it's art, we're told. What a great community we're growing.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

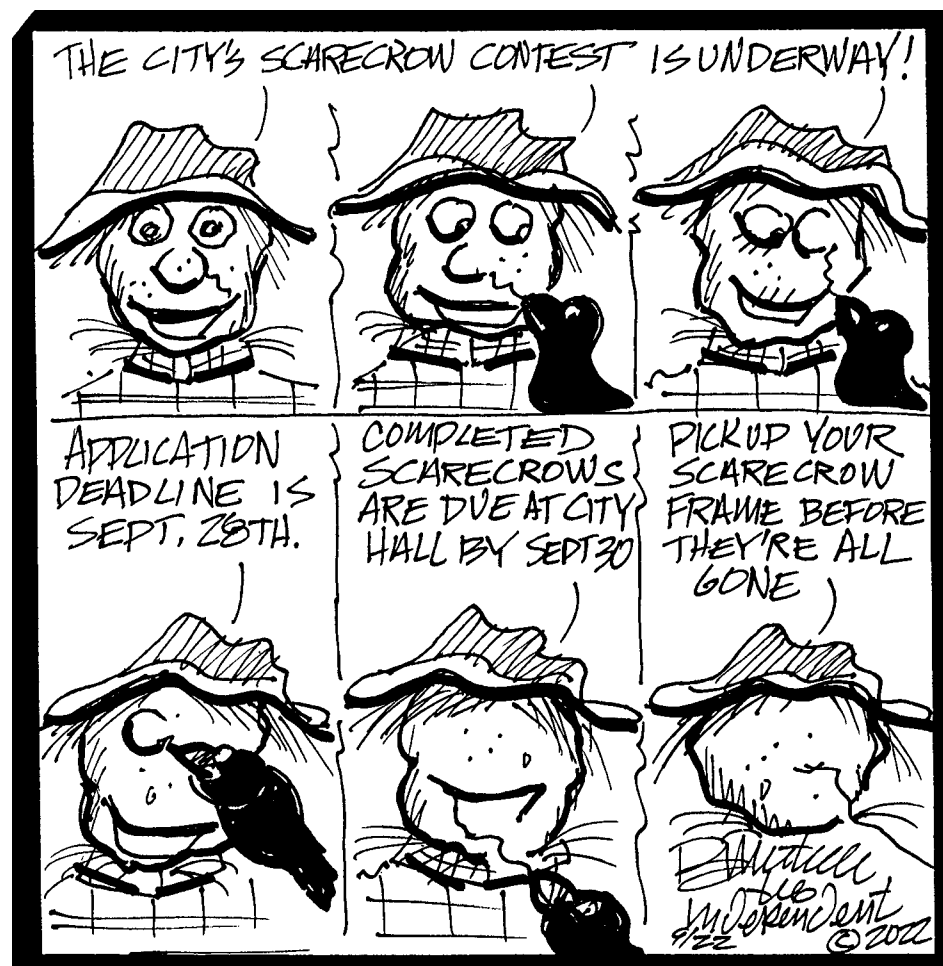
On Friday morning, when we arrived at about 7:30, the railroad crossing arms were down and flashing at both the Savage Road and South Street crossings in the city of Belleville and people were carefully going around them to proceed. I looked down the track both ways and no trains were coming.

On the fire department scanner an hour later it was noted Belleville police were out to stop people going through the gate, but railroad employees advised that no trains were scheduled. At about 8:45 a.m., it was reported a railroad worker said he was going to the next crossing over to resolve the problem.

It was resolved, but the morning was full of traffic delays and confusion. Van Buren Township Public Safety Department sent out a Nexel alert to avoid those areas because of the traffic.

A former Belleville resident named Brian called us on Thursday while I was out delivering *Independents*. He left a message and when I called him back he said he was reading that day's paper and said he was born in 1940 and 60 to 70 years ago he was told the name of the island in Belleville Lake is "Wizard Island." He doesn't know how I came up with the name of "Fireworks Island" that was mentioned in a news release from Rotary International.

Well, that was how it was referred to in the news release and that's what people have been calling it lately. I looked in the local history book "Water Under the Bridge," but couldn't find anything on the island. Maybe I'm not looking on the right page, but it's not in the index in the most recent version of the book.



Brian suggested I just call up the museum and ask them. I had to tell him we don't have a museum open at the moment. He said he lives over near Romulus now and didn't know the museum had been closed for more than two years.

Another longtime Belleville resident brought me some folders with historical documents and a *Belleville Enterprise* from 1895, explaining she didn't want to give it to the museum, since the museum no longer has the reputation of being a safe place to put historical items in for safekeeping.

It seems like every municipal meeting I go to lately has at least one person asking about the museum and when it will open.

The CBC said they were told they won't be able to put Santa in the museum again this year, but next year Santa will be able to be at the museum. The CBC will have Santa at the library again this year.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said she has been asking Santa for a new library for many years and the community finally has a new library. "Santa can come to the library any time he wants," she said last week.

Jim Wigginton, our Van Buren Township skydiver, said he was leaving last weekend to skydive at Mont St. Michel, an island off the coast of France.

He said: "I will be the first American, also the first civilian, to skydive and land there.

Previously, only the French GIGN, Tier One, Special Operations, were allowed to land there."

Van Buren Public Schools Finance Director Sara Cortese resigned her position recently to become new Director of Accounting at the Dearborn Public Schools to replace someone who is retiring. On Aug. 8, she was given a raise from \$108,500 to \$125,000. VBPS Supt. Pete Kudlak said they had 13 applications for her finance position.

On Aug. 16 Cortese also was reappointed to a four-year term on the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, so the township will have to come up with a different LDFA member, as well.

There was a kidnapping report noted on a recent Van Buren Township dispatch log. It was on Denton Road on Sept. 6 at 2:33 p.m. I asked about it and Det. Michael Long reported this was a domestic violence complaint, and charges were denied in this case by the prosecutor's office.



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**BELLEVILLE - AREA
INDEPENDENT**

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper
published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

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Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

Office Manager: Janet Millard

Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

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Letters

BACA invites public to join in Van Gogh trip

To the editor:

This letter addresses the details about the Belleville Area Council for the Arts (BACA) excursion to the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) for the Van Gogh Exhibit. The exhibit will run from Oct. 2, 2022 to Jan. 22, 2023. Individual tickets for a different day may be purchased directly from the DIA web site. The bus tour is limited to 50 participants.

1. Preparation for the Exhibit: Movie of the story of the life and the work of Van Gogh, "Lust for Life," will be shown at the Belleville Area District Library at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17. The movie is compliments of the library and there is no charge.

2. A bus tour for the Van Gogh exhibit at the DIA, sponsored by BACA, is Saturday, Nov 19. Cost is \$25 per person. Payment in advance is a guarantee of your reservation. This cost includes the bus ride to and from the DIA and entry into the DIA and the exhibit. The wheelchair-accessible bus leaves the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd., at 11 a.m.

The exhibit tour within the DIA commences at noon and an audio guide for the exhibit will be available. Lunch will be available at the DIA cafeteria. The bus leaves at 4 p.m. to return to Van Buren Township Hall.

The bus is provided by the DIA, free of charge. There is no entry fee for the DIA. The fee of \$17 for entry into the exhibit is included in the BACA charge of \$25. Our Wayne County millage of .20 mill to support the DIA allows the DIA to offer residents of Wayne County these services at no cost.

Any questions? Call Barbara Miller at (734) 516-0025. Send your reservation money by check made payable to BACA to: BACA, P.O. Box 1654, Belleville, MI 48112.

Thank you for your interest in this cultural excursion

Barbara Rogalle Miller
BACA Chair of Van Gogh Excursion

Used book donations needed for 3-day sale

To the editor:

Used book donations are needed for the coming Friends of the Belleville Area District Library Book Sale on Nov. 12-14. The sale will start on Saturday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m.–noon with a pre-sale for members of the Friends of the Library. Membership forms may be obtained at the library, at the door on Nov. 12, or on-line at www.belleville.lib.mi.us.

For the first time, the Used Book Sale will held for three days:
Sat., Nov. 12, 12-3 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 13, 2-5 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 14, 3-8 p.m.

Adult, teen and children's fiction in hardcover and paperback are currently in short supply. Holiday books and romance novels are needed the most. Also wanted are DVD's, Blu-Rays and audio books. All donations should be in good condition. Not accepted are encyclopedias, VHS videotapes or Reader's Digest condensed books.

There is a limit of two boxes of donations per library visit. The deadline for book sale donations is Nov. 1. A donation receipt may be obtained at the library circulation desk.

The Friends appreciate your donations to help raise funds for the Harvest Fest, Homegrown Knowledge speaker series, summer reading programs, and other library activities.

Elaine Gutierrez
Friends of the Belleville Area District Library

Great experience at The Hair Station

To the editor:

I wanted to share my experience that I had at The Hair Station in downtown Belleville. I walked in with my buddy and three of his kids.

His youngest son is 1 year old. We all got Great Haircuts, they took us back right away. The 1-year-old even got a first-time-haircut certificate for his baby book which made his mom very happy. We were offered beverages, watched the little TV, along with great conversation and some good laughs.

These people are amazing. Diane did my haircut and my friend's two sons. The apprentice, Zach, did a great job also. They are both very patient and very talented, to say the least.

This was the best experience and the best haircut I've ever had at a barber shop in 52 years. This is some real down-home hospitality.

James C. Altherr

RVs vs. Semi Trucks What is up with VBT?

To the editor:

RVs vs. Semi Trucks: What is up with Van Buren Township?

Camping World has been put out of business because they wanted to install a high-tech, environmental-friendly paint booth to replace the one they removed for the remodel.

Van Buren Township has put up nothing but obstacles and hoops for Camping World to jump through about the paint booth, still without a resolution. But they announced a Kenworth semi-truck dealership with a PAINT BOOTH being built right next door to Camping World. (Also, let's not talk about the tax abatements they will be

(continued on page 6)

More Letters

(continued from page 5)

getting.)

Why does Van Buren Township have a beef with Camping World? This area has a lot of RV'ers. You see them in every neighborhood and especially driving down 94. Now you have to travel to Chelsea, if you want to go to Camping World.

Come on, Van Buren Township. Let Camping World open!

Frustrated RV Owner

Jeff Kotlarek

Romulus

Abortion amendment: Risk to women, children

To the editor:

Proposal 3, an Abortion Constitutional Amendment, will be on the ballot this November. For the following reasons, Michigan voters should reject this measure.

The proposed language indicates that "An individual's right to reproductive freedom shall not be denied, burdened, nor infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest...The state shall not... prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against someone for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual in exercising their right to reproductive freedom..."

"A state interest is "compelling" only if it...does not infringe on that individual's autonomous decision-making." (emphasis added)

If approved, this amendment would make it nearly impossible for our government to regulate the abortion industry in Michigan. This amendment has taken measures to prevent the government from prosecuting an abortionist that has damaged a woman during an abortion procedure. Currently, if an abortionist brings harm to a patient, he is held accountable. However, this amendment would place an abortionist beyond the law. One doesn't need to be opposed to abortion to be opposed to this amendment. Without regulation the abortion industry poses a great risk to women.

In addition, this amendment puts minors at great risk. The amendment specifically says that the government may not infringe on an individual's autonomy about all things related to reproduction, regardless of the individual's age. That means that minors in Michigan will be exposed to any negative persuasion, while the state is left helpless to shield them. If a minor is coaxed by an adult to engage in sex, and the minor has made an autonomous decision, it appears that the state will be unable to interfere. If a minor is induced by an adult to self-sterilize, it seems that the state will be unable even to regulate such a transaction. If such an adult harms the minor, it does not appear that the state would have any recourse against the adult. It is also unclear how the state would be able to enforce current laws regarding

statutory rape, child marriages, incest and child pornography, all of which involve an adult preying upon a minor. If an adult were to solicit a minor to engage in prostitution or to become a surrogacy factory, would the state have any ability to intervene? It appears that they would not.

How much influence should an abortionist or a doctor that wishes to sterilize a child, be allowed to impose on our children? When does their effort to make a profit qualify as exploitation of a minor? In the end, it will be minors, both male and female, that will suffer at the hands of this amendment.

For these reasons, I encourage my fellow Michiganders to vote NO on Proposal 3 this November.

Wayde Hoppe

Van Buren Township

"Do or do not. There is no try."

— Yoda

State Rep. Joe Bellino opposes new deer rules

To the editor:

I am urging the Natural Resources Commission to rescind new deer harvest reporting requirements, which I believe are unjust. These mandatory requirements include criminal penalties for those who fail to comply. I am sympathetic to the need for deer population monitoring, but the seven unelected members of the NRC simply do not have any right to enforce criminal penalties.

The separation of powers exists in our state's governmental framework to ensure the citizens of Michigan have a voice when laws are written – the commission's overreach blatantly ignores the rule of law.

This government overreach by the commission goes too far. People throughout the communities I represent have serious concerns about the new mandate – and I

agree with them. The requirements demand excessive personal information from sportsmen, more than is needed by the DNR to monitor the harvest. Furthermore, the assumption that sportsmen deep in Michigan's vast, desolate forests during their hunting trip will have access to a reliable internet or phone connection and know their exact coordinates at the time of their harvest is absurd.

This mandate will only exacerbate the decline in hunting that has occurred in our state in recent decades. We should be working to attract hunters, not institute additional regulatory burdens that discourage participation in Michigan's deer hunting season.

I hope the commission will consider rescinding these new requirements.

State Representative Joseph N. Bellino, Jr.
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MICHAEL RAYMOND BEHNKE

(February 5, 1990 – September 11, 2022)
 Michael Raymond Behnke, age 32, of Romulus, MI, died suddenly, doing what he loved -- riding his motorcycle -- on Sunday, September 11, 2022, in Taylor, MI. He was born February 5, 1990, in Dearborn, MI. He graduated from Lincoln High School, class of 2008, where he enjoyed playing baseball and football. He went on to earn his Associates degree from Eastern Michigan University and was an Assistant Supervisor for JP Morgan.

Mike loved playing pool, going to the casino, riding motorcycles, and cheering for the Detroit Tigers and Lions. He was a dedicated and proud father.

Mike is survived by his son Cash Michael Behnke, 5, daughter Marlee Rae Behnke, 3, and their mom Ashley Jackson, all of Romulus, MI; his father Daniel Behnke of Lewiston, MI; mother Jeannette (John) Quackenbush of Belleville, MI; 8 siblings: Eric (Alyssa) Behnke of Dearborn, MI, Christy (Jason) Krettlen, Phil (Julie) Quackenbush, both of Livonia, MI, Rich Quackenbush of Farmington, MI, Carrie (Jeff) Hearn of Plymouth Township, MI, Becky Quackenbush of Jackson, MI, Erin (Jake) Jackson of Jenison, MI, and Kelly Quackenbush of Wisconsin; 12 nieces & nephews, two great-nephews, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Mike was preceded in death by his grandparents: Clawson and Carolyn Willson, Wilma Looker, and Harold Behnke, also an aunt, Diane Behnke. Visitation was 1-8 p.m. Friday and 10-11 a.m. Saturday, September 17, 2022, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Funeral Service was at 11 a.m. with Pastor Gordon Moore officiating. Interment followed in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI. Memorial donations may be made to the family, to be used for his children.



Raymond Gerald
 Memering

RAYMOND GERALD MEMERING

(December 31, 1924 – September 18, 2022)
 Raymond Gerald Memering, age 97, long-time Belleville resident, passed away on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born December 31, 1924, in Vincennes, Indiana, son of Gerard "Garrett" & Alma (Joyce) Memering. After graduating from high school, he proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He married Virginia Rose Crays at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wayne, MI on January 29, 1949. They moved to Belleville in 1953 and became members of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, MI, where Ray was active in the Men's Club and a Boy Scout leader for many years. Mr. & Mrs. Memering were the first people to organize and run the first-annual Strawberry Festival. After working for the Wayne County Road Commission for 28 years, Mr. Memering owned and operated the former Belleville Automotive (Napa Auto Parts) for most of the 1980s. He was an incredible finish carpenter and helped his family with all their building projects. He was a former Knights of Columbus member, Belleville City Council member, and a volunteer fireman for the City of Belleville. Ray and Virginia loved snowmobiling, camping with family & friends, square dancing, golfing, and spending winters in Florida. Lately, he's been reminiscing about his childhood on the family farm and talking about his horses Dutch & Bill and riding them to church. (Now he's riding them in Heaven.)

Ray is survived by his devoted wife Virginia of 70+ years; five children: Alma (Richard) Johnson of Belleville, MI, Margaret (Thomas) Keon of Belleville, MI, Paula (Michael) Campau of New Boston, MI, Gerard (Jennifer) Memering of Willis, MI and Theresa (Gregory) Beulle of Vicksburg, MI; 12 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; four siblings: Elmer (Kathy) Memering of Okeechobee, Florida, Yvonne Deeds of Brighton, MI, Edmund (Dian) Memering of Belleville, MI and Robert (Gail) Memering of Brooklyn, MI; also numerous extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, and six siblings: Jean Corte, Marcella Ivan, Mary Pinter, Herman, James, and Hugh Memering.

Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. A Funeral Mass will be 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, MI, with visitation 10-11 a.m. Father John J. Kiselica will serve as celebrant. Interment will be in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Anthony Catholic Church and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Obituaries



William "Billy" Dunlop

WILLIAM 'BILLY' DUNLOP

(July 20, 1937 – September 14, 2022)

William "Billy" Dunlop, age 85, of Belleville, MI, passed away under hospice care on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born a twin son of George & Edna (Daugherty) Dunlop on July 20, 1937, on the Waterside, London Derry, Northern Ireland. He proudly served as a B Special in Ireland's military. He married Maureen Gillespie on June 1, 1963. They moved to the United States and lived in Pennsylvania before they made their home in Michigan. He retired from General Motors Hydramatic plant after more than 30 years of loyal service. He was a member of the U.A.W. Local 735. He enjoyed anything to do with cars, car shows, riding in the Woodward dream cruise, working on cars, yardwork, and walking his dog. Most of all, he enjoyed time with his family and especially his grandkids and great-granddaughter.

Billy is survived by his wife of 59 years, Maureen; daughter Carol Ann (Christopher) Polzin of Galena, Ohio; son Ian (Kay) Dunlop of Willis, MI; five grandchildren: Christin (Andrew) Kyte, Matthew (Jessica) Polzin, David Polzin, Shayna Dunlop, and Zachary Dunlop; great-granddaughter Hadley Kyte; three siblings: Renee Cruikshank, Harry (Diane) Dunlop, and Olive (Ray) Stich; also, numerous nieces and nephews, extended family, and friends. Mr. Dunlop was preceded in death by his parents George and Edna Dunlop; twin brother George Dunlop; three sisters: Desney Reid, Betty Dane, Faye Turoski; and two siblings in infancy David and Noel; and his three beloved dogs: Daisy, Cisco Kid, and Toto.

Visitation was 2-7 p.m. Sunday, September 18, 2022, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI. A Memorial Celebration of his life was Monday, September 19, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon Road, Canton, MI 48188 with Pastor Rocky Barra officiating. To honor William's wishes cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Parkinson Foundation at <https://www.parkinsonsmi.org/support-mpf/donatenow> or Alzheimer's Association at https://act.alz.org/site/Donation2?df_id=32112&32112_donation=form1

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Barbara Jean McArthur

BARBARA JEAN McARTHUR

(December 8, 1938 – September 12, 2022)

Barbara Jean McArthur, age 83, a longtime resident of Belleville, MI passed away on September 12, 2022, at Beaumont Hospital in Dearborn surrounded by her family. Barbara was born in Royal Oak, MI to Maurice Keeler Hovey and Katharine Agnes (Zepp) Hovey. She graduated from Belleville High School class of 1956. Barbara worked various jobs, most recently working in retail at Target. She had many hobbies and passions including gardening, baking, crocheting, and completing crosswords. Barbara was a loyal Detroit Tigers fan as well. But most of all she loved to spend time with her family.

Barbara is survived by her children, Kevin McArthur of Belleville, MI, and Rebecca (Bill) Tumminello of Newport, MI; her ex-husband Keith (Caroline) McArthur; her siblings Norman (Joan) Hovey of Westland, MI, Bernard (Kathleen) Hovey of Ohio, Margie Fields of Canton and Dianna Little of Howell; her granddaughters Barbara (Gary) Robinson of South Rockwood, MI, Kelsey (Shawn) Murdock of Livonia, MI; and her great-grandchildren, Quinn and Harper Robinson; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extending family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Maurice Keeler Hovey and Katharine Agnes Hovey; two brothers, Gilbert Hovey and Elmer Hovey; her sisters Eleanor Butzin, ZoeAnn McCrady, and Katherine Hermann.

Visitation was 3-8 p.m. Thursday, September 15, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. A Funeral Service was celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, September 16, 2022, at David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor Gordon Moore officiating.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Sept. 26 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- Tuesday, Sept. 27 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 28 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 3 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 4 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. workshop, 6 p.m. regular meeting



Kenneth Ray Nicks

KENNETH RAY NICKS

(October 24, 1949 – September 18, 2022)

Kenneth Ray Nicks, age 72, a longtime resident of Ypsilanti, passed away on September 18, 2022, at home surrounded by family. He was born on October 24, 1949, in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Hubert Ray Nicks and Dixie Josephine (Lowe) Nicks. Kenneth worked for General Motors for 31 years as a Hi-Lo Driver. Kenneth loved working on cars. He really enjoyed his garage. The Montecarlo was his favorite make and model. He was a past derby racer and his love of cars and derby racing touched other family members who have followed in his footsteps. Most of all he loved spending time with his family.

Kenneth is survived by his wife of 29 years, Cindy Nicks; his children, Casey Alan (Erica) Nicks of Belleville, Brandon (Kelly) Nicks of Belleville, and Shawn Patrick Nicks of Ypsilanti; 18 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends. He loved and adored his two cats Toby and Jojo, who gave him many years of happiness.

He was preceded in death by both his parents and his sister Diane Hoskins.

A visitation was scheduled at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, Michigan, 48111 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Positive COVID tests total 10,796 for residents in 48111 zip code

The Wayne County Health Department announced that as of Monday, Sept. 19, positive COVID test results have totaled 10,796 for the population in the 48111 zip code. That number had been 10,712 on Monday, Sept. 12.

The number of deaths from COVID in the 48111 area grew to 141. Last week it was 138, where it had been since Aug. 1.

On Monday, Sept. 19, the separate case totals released by the Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 7,478 positive cases and 94 deaths; City of Belleville, 1,165 positive cases and 14 deaths; and Sumpter Township 2,153 positive cases and 33 deaths.

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September 23rd – 25th, 2022

Guest Speaker: Eric Lyons

Topic: Is the Bible Reliable?

Friday

6:00 p.m.: (All-Encompassing) Reason to Believe the Bible

7:00 p.m.: Is the Bible Scientifically Accurate?

Saturday:

6:00 p.m.: Things to Remember When Comparing "Contradictory" Verses

7:00 p.m.: Dealing Fairly with "Contradictions": Principles to Remember

Sunday

Bible Study (10:00 p.m.): "Atheist-Making" Verses You Need to Know

Worship (11:00 a.m.): Is God's Plan of Salvation Contradictory?

Worship (3:00 p.m.): The Reliability of Jesus and the Gospel Accounts

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City of Belleville

(continued from page 1)

and dancing. The warlocks are admitted at 11 p.m. and everything is over by midnight, said John Winter of Egan's. The big tent goes up on Thursday, hopefully, and will be taken down early Monday, he said. Therese Antonelli said she isn't with the Central Business Community, but couldn't they leave the tent up until Halloween night on Monday so the CBC could use it for the trick or treat event? Winter said the tent costs them \$5,000 and the CBC doesn't want to pay him back some of the cost. Antonelli said she would talk with the CBC;

- Approved a Great Lakes Water Rate Contract Amendment that provides for contracts to be reopened every four years beginning with 2022. City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson said GLWA wanted an increase in water rates of 8.6% for the city, but the city used software and all the records about water main breaks and fires and proved its usage and now the GLWA has lowered the increase to 2.9%;

- Approved a MERS (Municipal Employees Retirement System) Multiplier Provision for a re-hired employee. Robinson said an accounting clerk who had worked for the city for seven and a half years and had a certain MERS percentage had a lower MERS rate when she came back to work for the city. MERS then rolled

her old rate with the new rate and she got less which made her suffer, he said. MERS never had this situation with the same city, he said. This new agreement straightens it all out. He said this employee also worked for another municipality with MERS in between her Belleville employments;

- Approved hosting the Detroit Institute of Arts' Inside-Out Art Installation. The Belleville Council for the Arts applied for the Inside-Out program, which is without charge to the city, and it was approved for next year, beginning in May and ending in October. The city hosted Inside-Out about ten years ago and it was a big hit. Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Voigt said the DIA will provide six to ten Great Masters reproductions on aluminum in frames which will be mounted by the same sign company that has been doing it for years. He said the DIA will be out to check on sites this Friday. He said they can have a dedication ceremony and make a big deal out of it when they are installed;

- Approved accounts payable of \$369,685.68 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to B&R Janitorial, \$615.32 for supplies for DDA Maintenance, DPW Dept.; and to Goodyear Tire, \$863.18 for replacement of dump truck tire that blew out while the truck was loaded during a main break;

- Heard Robinson report that they are hiring a new police officer, Tyrell Robinson who lives in Van Buren Township. He was

to be sworn in on Wednesday, with the ceremonial swear-in at the next council meeting. He said Robinson spent the last year at the City of Detroit and he thinks he will be a good fit for this department. He also announced that a lot of dead trees have been taken down in the cemetery so headstones won't be damaged by falling trees. Also, he said he's been told the side of the building at the police department where the shop was taken down will be taken care of the first week of October;

- Heard Councilwoman Kelly Bates thank the city for taking weeds off the playground at Village Park and for scheduling the locks to be put on the park restrooms. She also said it was nice that in the moment of silence at the beginning of the meeting, those present were asked to think of the Queen of England who was being entombed that day;

- Heard Councilman Steve Jones say that the last Main Street car show of the season is next week and homecoming at the high school is Oct. 21;

- Heard Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt say he has worked with a lot of reserve police officers and Jim Piper, who was honored that evening, "... is a great guy. We're privileged to have him";

- Heard Mayor Kerreen Conley remind everyone that the BHS Band Review is at the high school on Wednesday, Oct. 21, the same night as the Belleville Downtown Development Authority meeting, and she

planned to attend both;

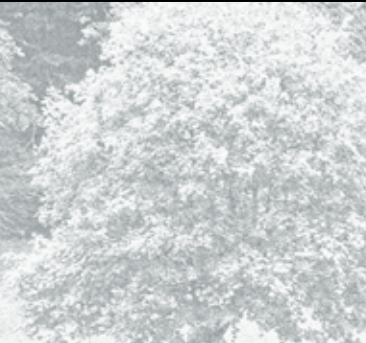
- Heard John Juriga announce the library will be open on Sundays starting Oct. 16 and as of Nov. 1 it will be open at 9:30 a.m. instead of 10;

- Heard Tom Fielder report on drug treatment for young people in Western Wayne County and how they may have to set up residential facilities to house them. He also announced the Substance Abuse Disorder group he attends has opened treatment centers downtown and in Livonia. He said strips to test for fentanyl are available and would be a good idea since fentanyl is now in many substances;

- Heard fire fighter Chris Zweng say that Egan's plans to preserve the Golden Boy sign. Voigt referred to the sign that was uncovered when siding was removed as a "ghost sign." Winter said the original artist who did the sign was in Egan's on Monday and he didn't want to redo the sign, but Winter's daughter is an artist and she will do it. Juriga asked if John and Thekla Szlinis shouldn't be informed of the sign being uncovered, since it was their restaurant in the past. Winter said there are gold flakes in the sign and when the sun shines on it in the afternoon, it has a glint. He said there is a "Tops in Taste" sign that used to be on the building and if anyone has it stored in their barn, he'd like to buy it;

- Heard Antonelli suggest they put lights in the trees along Main Street for the holidays, since they all have electric power available. Voigt said a lot of communities leave the trees lit all year. Antonelli was informed that would be a DDA project and she said she will attend the DDA meeting on Wednesday; and

- Heard Fielder say the police have been very, very good at getting people out of the football games at the high school. Councilman Jones said there was 1,300 in paid attendance at last Friday's game.



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Sept. 22 – Patricia Marshall
Sept. 23 – Megan Holmes, Tyler Johnson
Sept. 24 – Darcy Beagan
Sept. 25 – Liz Bowman
Sept. 26 – Tricia Seay, Wayne Walters,
Danika Cavins
Sept. 27 – Becky Ross, Jessica Jones
Sept. 29 – Michelle Sobocinski

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Pete Kudlak gave a presentation on the district's sinking fund millage that is on the Nov. 8 ballot to members of the Belleville Area District Library board at its Sept. 13 meeting. He passed out information and spelled out the details of the proposed millage. From left, top, around the table are board secretary Alma Hughes-Grubbs, treasurer Tanya Stoudemire, Joy Cichewicz, president Sharon C. Peters, vice-president Mary Jane Dawson, library director Mary Jo Suchy, and John Juriga.

Belleville Area District library to open on Sundays starting Oct. 16

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The staffing has been worked out and the Belleville Area District Library will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays, starting Oct. 16. At the Sept. 13 meeting of the Belleville Area District Library Board, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said they also plan to increase the morning hours as of Nov. 1. The times the library will be open starting Nov. 1 will be 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, along with the Sunday hours.

"We had always hoped we could have Sunday hours," said board president Sharon Peters, adding they thought it would be years in the future.

"But that Mary Jo just moves right along," she said.

Later in the meeting, as members voiced their delight at being open on Sundays, Peters said the only reason the library can be open on Sundays is because it has staff who will work on weekends.

In other business at the one-hour-and-16-

minute meeting, the board:

- Heard Van Buren Public Schools Supt. Pete Kudlak give a presentation on the sinking fund proposal on the Nov. 8 ballot. He said .5 mills for the sinking fund is now running out and the school district is seeking 1.75 mills to replace that. He said a sinking fund is for building renovation and now includes security and technology. The 1.75 mills will bring \$22 million over the six years of its life. He said Belleville High School is 12 years old, Rawsonville and Edgemont are 22 years old, and the other buildings are getting older. He said he was there to just give information and he would be glad to speak to any group or individual about the sinking fund proposal. Library board president Peters said those interested could go on the library's website

(continued on page 11)

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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THURSDAY: 20% Off All Pastas. ALL DAY

FRIDAY: Full Rack Ribs \$19.99. Half Rack Ribs \$15.99 (4pm - Close)

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SUNDAY: \$5 Build a Burger

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MONSTER MUTT WALK APPLICATION Saturday, October 15, 2022

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

1st Dog's Name: _____ Breed: _____

2nd Dog's Name: _____ Breed: _____

3rd Dog's Name: _____ Breed: _____

During the month of October the City of Belleville becomes "Booville". The Belleville Central Business Community is partnering with Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue (FMAR) to host a **Costumed Monster Mutt Walk** from 12 Noon to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2022. The Walk will begin and end at 4th Street Place.

We would like to advance register as many as possible; however, registrations will be taken the day of the event between 12:00 pm and 12:30 p.m. Each dog will receive a gift bag. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award medals will be given in three categories: Scariest, Cutest and Best Mutt, 1st only in Family category (family must dress also). In fact, it would be fun for everyone to wear a costume.

The registration fee is \$10/dog plus a can of dog or cat food. The application has enough space to register three dogs. **Please return this application** by mail with your check to my attention at: Belleville Central Business Community, 152 Main Street, Suite 2, Belleville, MI 48111. You may bring the dog or cat food with you to the event

Monster Mutt Walk Rules

- (1) All dogs must be leashed and current on vaccinations;
- (2) No aggressive dogs
- (3) Owners must clean-up after their dogs (bags will be provided).
- (4) No dogs can be left unattended. Owners must keep their dogs in sight & under control at all times.
- (5) Owners are responsible for their dog's actions.

This event is sponsored by Wayne County Community College District & Belleville DDA. For any questions or concerns, I prefer you contact me via my email: jfayemillard@att.net however, you may also call me at (734) 558-5368 after 3:30 p.m.

Janet Millard, Event Coordinator, Belleville Central Business Community

District Library

(continued from page 10)

to view the meeting and hear Supt. Kudlak's whole presentation;

- Approved a resolution authorizing levy of 6.831 mills on the tax bill in the library district for Dec. 1, 2022 for operational purposes for a total tax of \$1,187,259 (7 mills was approved by voters in 2010 and restored in 2022);

- Approved a resolution authorizing levy of 7.318 mills on the tax bill in the library district for Dec. 1, 2022 for operational purposes for a total tax of \$1,271,902 (7.5 mills was approved by voters in 2016);

- Approved a resolution authorizing levy of 2.2 mills on the tax bill in the library district for Dec. 1, 2022 to make bond payments for the \$14 million borrowed to construct and furnish a new building for library purposes and to acquire and develop an existing building for library purposes in Sumpter for a total tax of \$382,370 (as approved by voters in 2016);

- Approved accounts payable of \$118,452.71 which included \$410 for plumbing repair by Richard's Plumbing and Heating. Suchy said the bathroom sink at the branch in Sumpter was tearing away from the wall. The plumber reattached it as best he could but discovered that there is no backboard for the sink behind the drywall. At some point this will have to be addressed, she said;

- Heard Suchy report the sign company replaced the letter "I" in the blue, vertical sign on Charles Street. She said the recent

storm did not result in any leaking from the entryway curtainwall windows. She said fingers are crossed that the last sealing repair has finally solved the problem. She also said she had the pleasure of giving a group of retired Detroit Public Library librarians a tour of Belleville's new library. She said they asked many good questions and had a lot of positive things to say about the building;

- Learned that the library opened the first-floor program room to teens on the first day of school so they could get some after-school snacks and play board games, Jenga, Connect-4 and Corn Hole. "It was a nice day," Suchy reported;

- Was advised the library attorney who specializes in library law, Anne Seurynck, said she is willing to work with the policy committee to review all library policies, many of which were first passed when the district library was first formed in 2010;

- Learned the sidewalk was due to be repoured that week and it would get rid of the crooked power pole along Roys Street. The work was delayed by a pipe discovered that needed to be identified. Rev. Bob White, from the church across the street, wanted it to be identified before work progressed;

- Heard Peters report that the Belleville Fire Department was at the library to practice on the elevator. It is the only electric elevator in all of Belleville, she said;

- Heard plans are being made for Harvest Fest which will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 8. It will feature a tractor parade and the museum is not involved this year. Mary Jane Dawson said the last time she was in the museum was in 2019. John Juriga said people are talking about having a goat fest next year; and

- Heard Peters say she walks through the library regularly and the bioswale and the vegetative roof and the bees on the roof show how the library is handling the environment to enhance and beautify the area. In the children's area, Hilary Savage pointed out the bees on the purple flowers outside the window. "The work both Joy [Cichewicz] and John [Juriga] have done with the bees. I saw it with my own eyes," she said. She said the Farmer's Market on the Fourth Street Place in front of the library is like a festival every week and people from the market come in and out of the library. She said, "It is wonderful to see this place living up to what we hoped it would be -- and an extension of that. ... We were looking for this to be a cultural hub and it is."

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Singers: Belleville Community Chorus starting fall rehearsals

On Monday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. the Belleville Community Chorus opened its 16th season and began rehearsals for its Winter Concert.

"JOY – HOPE – LOVE" is scheduled for 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville.

It's not too late to join the talented group. To be part of it, just come to rehearsal on Mondays a few minutes before 7 p.m. and

Romulus VFW Post 78 to present drag queens, bingo for building fund

"The REAL Drag Queens of Bingo" will be presented by Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus VFW Post 78 on Friday, Sept. 30, at the post at 39270 W. Huron River Dr. in Romulus.

The show starts at 7 p.m. and doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and a ticket gets you six games of bingo and entertainment. A light meal and drinks can be purchased along with 50/50 tickets and raffle basket tickets. Everyone 18 and older is welcome.

Tickets can be purchased from the bartender in the Club Room. All proceeds will benefit the Building Fund. Information at (734) 941-3030.

you will be welcomed. The chorus, under the direction of Mary Loring is open to all who love music and singing.

The Belleville Community Chorus invites singers From 16 to 96 to join them, whether new to the group or veterans who have sung with them in the past. Whether soprano, alto, tenor, bass, or you're not really sure, you are welcome to be part of dynamic group.

The Belleville Community Chorus is a non-profit organization, made up of volunteers who love to sing. They perform a variety of choral music for the enrichment, education, and enjoyment of their members and audiences from the surrounding communities.

Not a singer? The chorus can always use a few helpful folks who would be willing to help coordinate the organization behind the scenes.

For more information, contact Mary Larivee, (313) 310-2614, or Claudia Roullier, (734) 697-8235.

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ORPHAN OF THE WEEK PETUNIA



HIYA FRIENDS, MY NAME IS PETUNIA!

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LDFA asks for realtor handling Grace Lake to come to meeting

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At a 12-minute meeting on Sept. 13, Doug Peters, vice chairman of the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, asked for those responsible for handling Grace Lake Corporate Center real estate to come to an LDFA meeting in person.

Peters said he'd like to have someone from the company come and tell the LDFA what they are doing to promote Grace Lake.

LDFA member Scott Medlen of Grace Lake said they exclusively use Jones Lang LaSalle Brokerage and he will go and ask them what they've been doing.

Peters said he would like to see them at the LDFA in person, face to face, so they can ask what "we can do to help them, using our personal contacts."

In other business at the Sept. 13 meeting, the LDFA:

- Was informed that Sara Cortese, whose reappointment to a term on the LDFA to represent the school district was recently approved by the township board, recently left the school district. The LDFA needs

a new appointment and newly appointed LDFA member School Supt. Pete Kudlak, who was at his first LDFA meeting, said he will recommend someone else from the district by the end of September. There are now four vacant seats on the 11-member LDFA;

- Heard Deputy Supervisor Dan Selman give the 2021 Informational Meeting & Synopsis of Activities of the LDFA as required by Public Act 57 of 2018. The primary focus of the LDFA at this time

is the payment of the debt obligations incurred with the public improvements completed in 2004 for Visteon Village (now Grace Lake Corporate Center); and

- Heard chairman Michael Dotson say at the last meeting former LDFA member John Delaney was present and he would like to have Delaney join the subcommittee working to find ways to promote Grace Lake. Other members of the subcommittee are Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara, Dotson, and Medlen.

Rushlow, Gohl, McKnight, Johnson honored at Southern NH University

MANCHESTER, NH -- Southern New Hampshire University announces that Aimee Rushlow and Heidi Gohl, both of Belleville, have been named to the President's List for Summer 2022.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List.

Kelsey McKnight of Van Buren Township and Samuel Johnson of Belleville have been

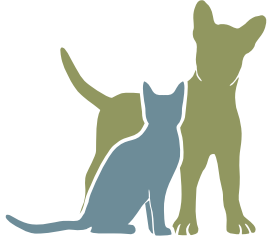
named to the Summer 2022 Dean's List at SNHU.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List.

Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer. The summer terms run from May to August.

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Taking part in the rescue effort were, from left, Mattie, Olivia, Jennifer Kowalski, Autumn Markgraff, and in front, Kris Faull.

Heroines in bathing suits perform CPR for man on AuSable River in Mio

By Linda Dyer
Huron Township

It has been said: Some heroes wear capes – Some heroes wear bathing suits while on the river!

Two weeks ago, with several lady friends, I went rafting down the AuSable River in Mio, MI. After a short time on the river, we approached a woman screaming for us to stop and call 911.

Around the bend were two other women giving CPR to a man on the riverbank. The man (Benny) had been down for approximately 10 minutes at this point.

My group of ladies included a police officer and two nurses who immediately jumped out of their rafts into the water to assist in giving compressions to the man. The bad cell phone connections were finally received

by local Sheriffs and EMTs. However, they couldn't locate us on the unmarked river as we were surrounded only by trees.

After a long 45 minutes of rotating the strenuous and exhausting compressions, the five ladies were finally relieved by two EMS

responders who approached on foot through the woods.

Benny sadly could not be saved but the tireless efforts and respect displayed by my dear friends was proof of "Good People" in our world.

Without hesitation, Jennifer Kowalski of Belleville, Autumn Markgraff of Monroe and Kris Faull of Belleville, responded to a need. I am so very proud of these local gals, as well as, first responders Mattie and Olivia

(last names unknown to me) who worked very hard trying to save a life.

R.I.P. Mr. Benny Szwitka

Note: A color code or numbering system should be placed on the banks of all rivers that are known to be used for recreational purposes to aid emergency responders. Whose job should it be? State of Michigan DNR? Counties? Local Fire Departments? Let's talk to our legislators!

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Life Line Screening will be providing mobile testing for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic and serious conditions on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at the Van Buren Eagles at 9961 Beck Rd. in Van Buren Township. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package of tests that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-800-237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com as pre-registration is required. Be sure to see their flyer inserted in today's paper.

Eric Lyons will be the guest speaker with the topic of "Is the Bible Reliable?" on Sept. 23-25 at Ridge Road Church of Christ in Ypsilanti. See their ad in today's paper for the nightly schedule and visit www.ridgeroadcoc.org.

Garden Fantasy Greenhouse on Tyler Road is open for the start of Autumn with

fall mums, mum hanging baskets, hardy asters, purple celosa, and more. Check out their assortment of fall combination pots and other varieties. They're open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Need advice on planting this time of year? Talk to the experts. Call (734) 697-1765. Be sure to see their ad in today's paper.

The application deadline to enter artwork for the 13th-annual Community Art Show has been extended to Oct. 8 for the show coming Oct. 14-16 at the Belleville Yacht Club. Cash prizes will be awarded in five categories. Entry forms are available at the Belleville Area District Library, Sumpter Township Media Center, and at the Belleville Area Council for the Arts' website at www.bacaart.org. See their ad in today's paper and email bellartson@gmail.com.

The Belleville Tigers football team improved to 4-0 this season with a 71-0 victory over Wayne Memorial on Sept. 16 at BHS. Up next: Dearborn Fordson at Belleville this Friday, Sept. 23, beginning at 7 p.m. Go, Tigers!

The City of Belleville Parks & Recreation-sponsored Scarecrow Contest is under way with an application deadline of Sept. 28, with the scarecrows themselves delivered to City Hall by Sept. 30. The scarecrows will be displayed along Main Street and judged during Harvest Fest on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Fourth Street Place and the library. Wooden frames will be available when you submit your application with a refundable \$50 deposit for the frame. The scarecrows will be on display until Nov. 1. See more information and the official rules on the application, which are available at City Hall, the library, and here at the *Independent* office during regular business hours. Winners will be announced at the City Council meeting on Oct. 17.

The Belleville Central Business Community's Monster Mutt Walk is coming up on Saturday, Oct. 15, at noon at Fourth Street Place. The application to enter your canine in costume can be found in today's paper and up to three dogs can be entered on one application. The cost is \$10 per dog entry, along with one can of dog or cat food brought to the event. Costume categories are Scariest, Cutest, Best Mutt, and Family. See the complete rules on the app. Applications can be mailed to the address listed or brought to the event, which is sponsored by the Wayne County Community College District, Belleville DDA, and hosted by the Belleville CBC and Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue. For more info, email Janet Millard, CBC's Event Coordinator at jfayemillard@att.net or call her after 3:30 p.m. at (734) 558-5368.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020.

BHS at-home games

• **Thursday, Sept. 22:** Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Wayne Memorial, 5:30 p.m.

• **Friday, Sept. 23:** Varsity Football vs. Fordson, 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Sept. 27:** Boys Varsity Tennis vs. KLAAC Crossover, 4 p.m.; Girls Freshman Volleyball vs. Dearborn, 5 p.m.; JV Volleyball vs. Dearborn, 5 p.m.; Varsity Volleyball vs. Dearborn, 6:30 p.m.

Go, Tigers!

Diane Kiessel

Belleville High School Athletic Secretary

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Sept. 22** – Candidates Meet and Greet at 7 p.m. in lieu of the regular meeting of the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club at the Wayne County Fairgrounds on Quirk Road in Van Buren Township. Local, county, state, and federal candidates invited. Light refreshments. All welcome.

• **Monday, Sept. 26** – Belleville Farmer's Market, 4-7:30 p.m., Fourth Street Place. Also, Main Street Car Show, 6-8 p.m., between Third and Fifth streets in downtown Belleville.

• **Friday, Sept. 30** – Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, presents "The REAL Drag Queens of Bingo." Show starts at 7 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m. \$25 per ticket gets you six games of bingo and entertainment. A light meal and drinks can be purchased. Info at: (734) 941-3030. All proceeds benefit the Building Fund.

• **Sunday, Oct. 2** – Bugles Across America begins at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial in Horizon Park on High Street in the City of Belleville. On the first Sunday of each month there is a brief ceremony to honor those who serve in the military. There is the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and Taps. All are welcome.



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Sumpter changes Parks & Rec from commission to committee

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting Sept. 13, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees unanimously changed the designation of its Parks and Recreation group from a commission to a committee.

Clerk Esther Hurst and Trustee Tim Rush were both absent and excused.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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Trustee Peggy Morgan questioned the proposal and township attorney Rob Young said the planners want it that way in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan now being updated.

The agenda item said the action was being taken "... pursuant to MCL 41.426 and support required for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan development."

Trustee Don LaPorte asked the item be removed from the agenda. He objected and said, "When we start mentioning MCL and putting people on the hook for paying..."

Young said that was to give some oversight by the board, but right now the board approves commission actions.

When the motion was made to approve the agenda, Trustee Matt Oddy amended that item to delete the part on MCL that Trustee LaPorte objected to.

In other business at the Sept. 13 meeting, the board:

- During the workshop heard Township Manager Anthony Burdick report that Finance Director Scott Holtz was at a conference, the restroom project is progressing, the federal ARPA funds through the county have different rules, the fence-line and fairgrounds project is progressing, a parttime employee in the treasurer's department would fill a huge gap if she were made full time, and the Great Lakes Water Authority had a 1.34% hike in rates for Sumpter and this was already billed in July;

- Heard Burdick also report that the payment for three contractors in the restroom project was not included in the \$207,000 in the warrants for approval that evening and the total should be \$289,220.75. When Trustee Morgan said they had not seen the invoices and she objected to paying for the warrants without the invoices, Burdick said they were not on the

table but he would provide them. "The checks won't be cut until Supervisor Bowman and I go through them and say, 'done,'" Burdick said;

- Heard Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke introduce Police Officer Nelson Hammons who was hired at the last meeting but couldn't attend because he was off getting married. Chief Luke said he was 33 years old and Officer Hammons said he grew up in the Belleville area and looks forward to serving the community;

- Heard Trustee Morgan ask about the election signs being taken down after the primary election. She said the ones who were still on the ballot always got to keep theirs up until after the general election. Chief Luke said that is not true. He said the ordinance is clear that signs can be placed no more than 30 days before an election and must be removed by five days after the election. He said if the township wants to change the ordinance, it can. Corey Blue, a candidate in the November election, said ballots will be mailed out later that week and maybe they should change the time. Trustee Oddy said Sumpter's absentee ballots won't go out until the end of the month. Burdick agreed that it will be a number of weeks before they are out;

- Approved the resignation of fire fighter Laura Bratby, effective Nov. 24, 2019. She had moved from the township;

- Approved the final payout of Police Officer Jeffery Benedict at \$1,516.02;

- Passed, on a 4-1 vote with Morgan voting no, a motion to "extend the Township Manager the courtesy of submitting agenda items directly to the board table for consideration, effective immediately";

- Approved to begin posting quarterly financial summaries to the township website on the Agenda & Minutes page, effective third quarter, October 2022;

- Passed, on a 4-1 vote with Morgan voting no, a motion to appoint Treasurer Vincent Warren as the Board Development Project Liaison, work with the township manager for the Sumpter Township fairgrounds and initial study of Banotai Park Reclamation and Improvements projects. Morgan had made a motion that died for lack of support for Warren to have the position only through Nov. 20, when he leaves office;

- Approved, on a 4-1 vote with Morgan voting no, the purchase offer of \$92,000 from Marco

Gutierrez Vasquez of Lincoln Park for the property identified as Wear Road parcel #81-080-99-0016-000, 9.75 acres, with a planned closing date of Oct. 31 through Moving the Mitten real estate group. Morgan opposed the sale after she learned the township was told the property was worth \$100,000;

- Tabled a proposal submitted by CTI to replace/upgrade the four-and-a-half-year PEG video system for a total cost of \$67,050 and an associated four-year service agreement at a separate total cost of \$15,090.56. Burdick said it won't enhance the TV channel. Board members wanted more information on whether Comcast could make improvements to channel 12 transmissions;

- Approved posting a Posting of Interest for exploration of hybrid role assignments, posting effective Sept. 14-28 and to advise AFSCME of the activity;

- Recognized former township Clerk Joan Oddy, mother of present Trustee Matthew Oddy, who was present in the audience during the workshop part of the agenda;

- During public comment, heard Corey Blue question spending county money when the county is \$4.7 billion in debt during inflation. He said this is "robbing our children";

- Heard Eric Partridge claim Davenport is putting up a lower grade fence than bidders bid on for the specifications of the fairgrounds fence. He said Supervisor Bowman tore down 320 feet of fencing that belonged to the Hoffman property and the supervisor should pay the township \$10,000 for what he tore down. It would have cost \$8,400 if low-bidder Allied Fencing would have got the bid. He gave each board member a document with details on the situation and Supervisor Bowman flipped his copy onto the floor where it stayed for the rest of the meeting. Partridge said they were, "disrespecting my tax dollars";

- Heard Mary Ban asked again if taxpayers are still paying on the 30-year bond taken out by the county to build a new jail across from the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice. Burdick said he is waiting for a reply on the question. Ban also complained about the brush along the township roadways which is interfering with people getting in and out of their properties. She also noted that the community has a museum that is not operating and she wondered if the supervisor had heard anything about it. Bowman said Supervisor McNamara has not contacted him whatsoever on the subject.

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VBT planners not enthused about reducing setback between houses

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A proposal from staff to reduce the required space between new residences from a total of 20 feet to 10 feet was discussed at length by the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at its regular meeting Sept. 14.

It had been discussed at previous meetings, as well, and pictures of homes in nearby communities were gathered and studied to show what this would look like.

Commissioners agreed that having just five feet of space between neighbors was too close, but perhaps there could be flexibility.

Director of Planning and Economic Development Dan Power said Pulte Homes is looking at the 30 acres at the northwest corner of Tyler and Morton Taylor that previously had been zoned for commercial and multi-family dwellings.

They are looking at houses of 38 to 40 feet in width on 50-foot lots.

The reason for considering reduction of setbacks was to allow developers to finish planned residential developments including Cobblestone Ridge and Townsend Park because more housing options were needed.

It also was to fulfil a need for “attainable” homes on smaller lots because of an increase in the senior populations. Power said studies showed in 2019 over one-fourth of the population would be over 60 years of age.

Power said he understands the commission is saying it doesn’t want to go with a broad brush, but by individual developments. He said, from the discussion, that the commission doesn’t want to change the planned residential developments as far as density requirements and those would still apply.

Commission chairman Bryon Kelley said 20 feet is a really small width and it looks like they are doing a lot of work on the plans, but it only affects developers, who would benefit from that.

“I’m sort of struggling with that,” Kelley said. “I like the ability at flexibility.”

Power said the unfinished PRDs would not change. They would not be adding lots, but removing 20 feet as a firm setback.

“I like flexibility ... but the photos make me apprehensive,” Kelley said.

Commissioner Bernie Grant said the density may change and more open setbacks set as modifications.

Power said there’s an existing ordinance that rules out modification of building separation.

Commissioner Kari Barr the goals of this change was to help provide affordable housing and housing for elderly people. She said she was not convinced that 10 feet spacing is something we want. She recalled that Commissioner Grant pointed out the space between the houses may be open at the beginning, but people plan bushes and trees and put up fences interfering with the drainage.

She asked if the township had missed a development opportunity because of this and Power said there was nothing it missed out on.

Barr asked what the proposed Pulte development looked like and Power explained.

Commissioner Brian Cullin suggested that if they have a density situation and reduce lot size and have bigger parks and tell them this is the number of homes you can have, that might work.

“People love the rural feel and ... we’re getting away from that,” Cullin said.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said seniors don’t want a second story and the homes wouldn’t fit in with Charter Club across Tyler Road.

Power agreed that smaller lots have two-story properties.

Cullin said he drove through Cherry Hill Village at the corner of Ridge and Cherry Hill and it looks “horrendous.” He said the homes all look the same and he doesn’t want that in Van Buren Township.

Budd agreed. “Don’t want that in Van Buren Township.”

Kelley said he has a concern with consistency. He likes options, but that really causes consistency problems.

Barr asked what was the next step if this 20 feet is nothing they want to change? To drop it?

Power recommended waiting for full attendance to make a decision or to send it back to the drawing board. Commissioner Medina Atchinson, who urged the commission to provide ways for seniors to live in the township instead of moving to other locations when they left larger homes, was absent from the meeting.

Budd asked what would happened if they do nothing.

Power said the consent judgment for the Ecorse/Morton Taylor housing development already provides for five-foot lot lines.

Kelley said he is sure Commissioner Atchinson would like to comment.

Power said they don’t want to make decisions to pigeonhole one site.

“I would like to look at what the developer would bring us,” Kelley said and Power said he was receptive to that.

Commissioner Jeff Jahr, who had remained unusually silent during the discussion, said he could see both sides.

He said it costs less for a PRD developer to put in homes and roads and sidewalks all together, so it’s an economic drive, not because the people called for houses that are cheaper and closer together. He said the township has to look at the health, safety and welfare of people and the closer setback is fraught with problems.

Commissioner Jahr said he feels there is wisdom in the 20 feet that was decided in the past and kept for so long. It seems reasonable, he said.

He said Cobblestone Creek has a preponderance of really good evidence that the township could waive the 20 feet. He

said it sounds to him like the commission finds the 10 feet is awfully close.

“I’d hate to be the commission that invites the developer in and we have three meetings to say I don’t know,” Jahr said. “It’s not fair to the developer.”

“I’m undecided. I can see both sides,” Jahr said.

Commissioner Grant said it would be nice to have a list of reasons to allow changing 20 feet to 10 feet.

Power said the staff did have a list and it was changed to provide more flexibility after a discussion with the commission.

Grant said for changes to five feet they could list reasons, specific circumstances related to the site.

Power asked if the commission would be open to less setback in certain areas or a percentage of the block.

“I don’t want everything ten feet apart,” Cullin said.

“They’re not going to be building ranches,” Budd said.

“We haven’t missed out on any except this,” Barr said. “It’s not for the elderly. It’s two stories.”

Power asked if they wanted him to come up with more specific regulations? That could lead to more discussion and then no change, he said. He offered to bring the developer to tell of his plans.

“I don’t know about the developer,” said Kelley. “I don’t want to give the wrong idea, that we’re designing for him. I just want an idea of what he’s developing to give us firsthand what someone’s planning.”

Also on the agenda was a suggestion to change the 30% requirement for side- or back-entry garages.

Cullin said he doesn’t like to see garages dominate the facades, especially if they are three-car garages.

Grant said with a requirement for 30%, there could be a stretch of side entries and you would see doors all the way down the street.

Kelley said he wanted to keep these two ordinances together, but work on the first ordinance.

When asked if the changes being discussed would benefit the Scott Jones residential development announced near Sandy’s Marina. Power said it wasn’t for that, but that Jones had wanted 6-7 residence per acre density and the master plan was changed to accommodate that. He said it is still zoned single-family residential and Jones hasn’t come back on that. He conceded the changes would benefit that development.

Power said planning consultant Vidya Krishnan was absent from that night’s meeting because her autistic son was receiving the Ted Lindsey Award for Courage.

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WANTED

Documents/Emails or information, that will help attorneys suing **VISTEON** Corporation on behalf of Van Buren Twp, MI, which sold bonds to help Visteon Corp. build its corporate headquarters in the Township. Visteon declared bankruptcy and now refuses to help Van Buren Twp. pay off the bonds as promised. Who or what committee decided Visteon would not pay Van Buren Twp. as promised? Documents from 2008 to present are especially desired.

Information and/or documents showing Visteon originally intended to keep its promise to help Van Buren Twp. pay off the bonds; or other information related to Visteon’s treatment of Van Buren Twp. is needed.

Mail documents to Attorney J. Douglas Peters PLLC at 418 Main St., Belleville, MI 48111 or Call Mr. Peters at 734-725-9056.

Court Watching:**Netflix crew records preliminary exam with 'adult film star' witness**

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A Netflix camera crew received permission from 34th District Court Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley to record the preliminary exam of Kevin Demarco Whitfield on Sept. 14, as part of a documentary.

Whitfield, 24, of Detroit was brought from the Wayne County Jail for the in-

person exam on a charge of armed robbery on Jan. 19 at the Marriott hotel at 30559 Flynn Dr. near the airport in Romulus. A second charge of unlawful imprisonment was added after testimony.

The only witness was Melissa Ann Stioetti, who testified she lived in Florida and she is an "adult film star." She testified she came to Michigan to see her mother and then to see fans and clients. She testified she received a 4 p.m. text for a 6 p.m. appointment and the gentleman arrived at 5:58 p.m. She said he handed her \$500 for a half hour of her time. She identified him as the man in the orange jump suit at the defendant's table.

"After we finished with the session, we both got dressed," she said, adding that as they walked to the door, he threw her against the wall and pointed a gun in her face. She testified she pled with him not to shoot her, telling her she had kids. She said he ordered her to give him her Rollex watch and he ripped her gold chain with charms necklace off her neck and took her wedding and engagement ring and her cellphone.

She testified that he walked her back in the bedroom and rifled through her luggage while she was forced to sit on an ottoman. She said he wanted to know where the money was and she said she didn't have any

money but he found her \$5,600, took his \$500 back. She said he took her wallet but gave her back her ID when she asked. He also gave back a charm that had belonged to her grandmother who had died. He took her laptop computer but allowed her to pull out the hard drive that had all her records on it.

She testified he unplugged the hotel phone when he left and she didn't leave the room for 30 minutes. She said she watched out the window and didn't see him exit the building. She told the judge that she is married and when she didn't answer her phone to her husband's calls, her husband

(continued on page 20)



City of Belleville Public Notice



ORDINANCE NO. 00-002

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES IN THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN, BY AMENDING TO CHAPTER 50, ENTITLED "OFFENSES," DIVISION TWO, ENTITLED "JUVENILE RESPONSIBILITIES," SECTION 50-429 TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS BY PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE, AND SECTION 50-430 TO PROHIBIT THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE FROM REPEATEDLY BEING ABSENT FROM SCHOOL. (Reference — MCL 722.642)

The City of Belleville, Michigan, ordains:

Section 1. Chapter 50, Division 2, Juvenile Responsibility, is hereby amended to add updated state law changes to Section 50-429 and 50-430 as follows:

Sec. 50-429. A person under 21 years of age shall not possess or smoke cigarettes, cigars or Tobacco vapor dispensing devices; or possess or chew, such or inhale tobacco vapor, chewing tobacco or tobacco snuff; or possess or use tobacco in any form, on a public highway, street, alley, park or other lands used for public purpose, or in a public place of business or amusement. A person under 21 years of age shall not present or offer to any individual a purported proof of age that is false, fraudulent, or not actually his or her own proof of age for the purpose of purchasing, possessing, or attempting to possess a tobacco product. A person who violates this section is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, punishable by a fine of not more than \$50 for each offense. The court may require a person who violates this section to participate in a health promotion and risk reduction assessment program, if available. A person who is ordered to participate in a health promotion and risk reduction assessment program under this section is responsible for the costs of participating in the program. In addition, a person who violates this section is subject to the following:

- For the first violation, the court may order the person to do one of the following; Perform not more than 16 hours of community service in governmental or non-profit/service organization or any other court ordered program for health promotion or risk reduction assessment.
- For a second violation, in addition to participation in a health promotion and risk reduction program, the court may order the person to perform not more than 32 hours of community service in a governmental or non-profit/service organization.
- For a third or subsequent violation, in addition to participation in a health promotion and risk reduction program, the court may order the person to perform not more than 48 hours of community service in a governmental or non-profit/service organization.

Sec. 50-430. Unauthorized Leave from School Premises. It shall be unlawful for any juvenile under 18 years of age (unless exempted by MCL 380.1561(3)) to be repeatedly absent from school any time when such student is engaging in, going to, or returning from any regularly scheduled session or activity of such school without first obtaining the written approval of the principal of such school or other person designated by the principal to issue such written approval. (Ord. No. 94-297; § 3.1(e), eff. 4-14-1994)

Sec. 50-430. Absent from School (Truancy). It shall be unlawful for any juvenile under 18 years of age (unless exempted by MCL 380.1561(3)) to be repeatedly absent from school or other learning program intended to meet the juvenile's educational needs, provided the absence is not excused by a licensed health care professional.

Section 2. Saving Clause. Nothing in this Ordinance or in the Code hereby adopted

shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court or administrative body, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any Act or Ordinance hereby repealed by this Ordinance; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.

Section 3. Severability. Should any word, sentence, phrase, or any portion of this Ordinance be held in a manner invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction or by any state agency having authority to do so for any reason whatsoever, such holdings shall be construed and limited to such word, sentence, phrase or any portion of the Ordinance held to be so invalid and shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining words, sentences, phrases, or portions of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Conflicting Ordinances. All prior existing ordinances adopted by the City of Belleville inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, hereby expressly repealed.

Section 5. Penalties. Any violation of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be and constitute a municipal civil infraction. Sanctions; for any violation of this Ordinance which constitute a municipal civil infraction shall be a civil fine of up to \$50 plus any costs, damages, expenses under applicable law for a civil infraction.

Sec. 50-456. Damaging school property

No person shall damage, destroy, or deface any public, private, or parochial school building or the grounds, outbuildings, fences, trees, or other appurtenances or fixtures belonging thereto. (Ord. No. 94-297, § 3.1(f), eff. 4-14-1994)

ADOPTED APPROVED AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Belleville, this 19th day of September, 2022.

Kerreen Conley, Mayor

Briana Hootman, City Clerk

Agenda Date: September 19, 2022

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Ordinance as passed by the Belleville City Council at a regular Council meeting held in the City Council Room on the 19th day of September, 2022.

Briana Hootman, City Clerk

VERIFICATION OF PUBLICATION

I further certify that the foregoing was published in the Independent, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Belleville, on the 22nd day of September, 2022.

Briana Hootman, City Clerk

Within 20 days after publication of any ordinance duly passed by the Council, a petition may be presented to the Council protesting against such Ordinance continuing in effect. Said petition shall contain the text of such Ordinance and shall be signed by registered qualified electors of the City in numbers equal to 25% of the total votes for Mayor at the last regular City election prior to the filing of the petition. Said Ordinance shall thereupon and thereby be suspended from operation and the Council shall immediately reconsider such Ordinance.

Court watching

(continued from page 19)

called hotel security and said she needed a welfare check. Security came to her room and knocked and asked if she needed help and she told them she'd been robbed.

Defense attorney Nancy Ann Richards cross-examined the witness and Stioetti confirmed the half-hour session involved sex and no pictures were taken. She said that session actually lasted about 15 minutes and she saw him without clothes and described tattoos on his chest. She said he flushed his condom down the toilet.

She said he had facial hair, but now he

doesn't. She said she picked him out of a police photo lineup at once. "As soon as I looked at it, there he was," she said.

When she was asked by Prosecutor Bryn Bailey if she had ever been convicted of theft or debauchery, she said no. Bailey added the charge of unlawful imprisonment after the witness was dismissed and defense attorney Richards objected, saying she would have asked different questions if she had known there was an added charge. Judge Oakley brought the witness back.

The witness estimated she was held an hour after the initial session and there was no way for her to move past him and run.

"When he pulled the gun, I peed on myself," she testified. "I asked to use the

restroom." She said he said no and she asked again and he refused. "I thought I was going to die in that room," she said.

Prosecutor Bailey said the defendant told her not to leave, to shut up, and kept her over an hour confined to a single piece of furniture.

Judge Oakley bound Whitfield over on both charges for a Sept. 21 arraignment on the information at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

After the court session was over, the four members of the camera crew filed down from the jury box and left the courtroom.

Joseph Lawrence Broomfield

Joseph Lawrence Broomfield, 44, of

Detroit was charged with first-degree retail fraud on June 4 in Van Buren Township. He was arraigned June 6 and his probable cause conference was scheduled for June 15 and then rescheduled for July 27. A live preliminary exam was set for Sept. 14.

The exam was held on Sept. 14 and Judge Oakley found there was probable cause and bound him over to circuit court on the charge for a Sept. 21 arraignment on the information.

Prosecutor Bryn Bailey's first witness was Denise Fisk, a store detective who had been in the business for 30 years and transferred from another Meijer store

(continued on page 21)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111/ Members of the public may additionally participate in the meeting electronically per guidance provided by the Wayne County Local Public Health Department for meetings of governmental bodies held under public act 228 of 2020, effective January 1, 2022. Instructions for attending the meeting electronically are provided in this notice. The BZA will meet to consider the following variance request:

- Case # 22-038-** A request by Joseph Altman on behalf of Marash-Ljuljah Nucullaj for 11511 Belleville Road (Mike's Kitchen Restaurant) Parcel ID# 83-086-99-0012-001 for a variance from Section 3.112 (E) for C-2 Extensive Highway Business District:

Side (South) Yard Setback:

- Required: 25.00 feet
- Existing: 5.00 feet
- Proposed (restroom addition): 5.00 feet, 7.50 feet (storage room addition)
- Variance requested: 20.00 feet

Members of the public may access the agenda materials via the Township website – www.vanburen-mi.org beginning **October 10, 2022**. On the meeting website, members of the public will also gain access to **means of participating in the electronic meeting. On the agenda for the meeting**, a unique Zoom weblink and dial-in phone number with a meeting ID for meeting videoconference or teleconference access will be provided. The meeting will be available to view live on the Van Buren Township YouTube Channel which can be reached from the live meeting link located on the Van Buren Township website home page (www.vanburen-mi.org). Closed captioning will be available after YouTube fully renders meeting video.

A complete **procedure for public comment by electronic means** is provided on a guide which is accessible on the Van Buren Township website (www.vanburen-mi.org). Participants may also choose to submit written comments that will be read into record during public comment by the Chairperson. Submit any written comments or questions about the meeting via e-mail to dpower@vanburen-mi.org.

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any citizen requesting accommodation to attend a meeting, and/or to obtain this notice in alternate formats, please contact the Clerk's Office at 734.699.8900 extension 9205.

Posted: 9/17/2022

Published: 9/22/2022

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111/ Members of the public may additionally participate in the meeting electronically per guidance provided by the Wayne County Local Public Health Department for meetings of governmental bodies held under public act 228 of 2020, effective January 1, 2022. Instructions for attending the meeting electronically are provided in this notice. The BZA will meet to consider the following variance request:

- Case # 22-039-** A request by Jason Bibby on behalf of owner Huron Clinton Metropark Authority for 17879 Savage Road (Parcel ID# 83-141-99-0001-000) for a variance from Section 7.202(A), Table 3 pertaining to detached accessory structures in the AG – Agricultural and Estates District, to construct a tower structure with three (3) slides that exceeds the allowable height as listed below:

Maximum Detached Accessory Structure Height:

- Required: 20.00 feet
- Proposed: 35.58 feet
- Variance requested: 15.58 feet

Members of the public may access the agenda materials via the Township website – www.vanburen-mi.org beginning **October 10, 2022**. On the meeting website, members of the public will also gain access to **means of participating in the electronic meeting. On the agenda for the meeting**, a unique Zoom weblink and dial-in phone number with a meeting ID for meeting videoconference or teleconference access will be provided. The meeting will be available to view live on the Van Buren Township YouTube Channel which can be reached from the live meeting link located on the Van Buren Township website home page (www.vanburen-mi.org). Closed captioning will be available after YouTube fully renders meeting video.

A complete **procedure for public comment by electronic means** is provided on a guide which is accessible on the Van Buren Township website (www.vanburen-mi.org). Participants may also choose to submit written comments that will be read into record during public comment by the Chairperson. Submit any written comments or questions about the meeting via e-mail to dpower@vanburen-mi.org.

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any citizen requesting accommodation to attend a meeting, and/or to obtain this notice in alternate formats, please contact the Clerk's Office at 734.699.8900 extension 9205.

Posted: 9/17/2022

Published: 9/22/2022

Court watching

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to Van Buren in April. She presented testimony and a surveillance video from Meijer that showed the defendant walking out of the store with a cart holding ten boxes of work boots.

Fisk testified a greeter called her around 2:45 p.m. to report what she saw and Fisk reviewed the video of the "push out" of the cart with work boot boxes going out the grocery area doors. She did a close up with a different and noted it was an individual she knew from a previous case on March 16.

She said after checking the shelf via video

she determined ten pairs of work boots worth a total of \$1,299.90 was missing.

Van Buren Township Officer Jason Tront testified that he heard a report of retail fraud at Meijer with the suspect leaving in a U-Haul truck. He saw a U-Haul that had pulled into Menards. He helped Officer Derek Perez who made the stop. He looked in the window and saw several pairs of boots in boxes. The male driver of the vehicle was unable to provide ID. There was a female in the vehicle, as well.

Officer Tront testified he put the boots in his vehicle, took them to Meijer, put them in a cart and returned them to Meijer, and Meijer identified it as their property.

Defense attorney Andrew Sullivan said there was no knowledge provided on why the U-Haul was stopped by police and there was no basis for the search. He said there was no evidence of the value of what was taken or the number of things taken, which could be for a finder of fact at circuit court.

Prosecutor Bailey said Officer Tront had prior knowledge of the defendant.

Judge Oakley said he finds probable cause without Tront's testimony, but he accepts that too. He said there were ten boxes in the cart and \$100 each box times

10 boxes equality \$1,000-plus. He bound Broomfield over to circuit court for a Sept. 21 arraignment on the information.

Jenny Denise Diehl

Jenny Denise Diehl of Adrian had her final pretrial on a charge of domestic violence before Judge Oakley on Aug. 3. Although a jury trial date had been pending, her live bench trial was set for Sept. 14 before Judge Oakley.

She was charged with domestic violence on Oct. 17, 2020 in Van Buren Township and is free on \$10,000 personal bond. She is to have no assaultive contact with the victim.

At the bench trial, the defendant's daughter, Madison, now 19, and her boyfriend Gabe Wheeler testified that Jenny Diehl pushed them twice at an outdoor family birthday party and Jenny took away Madison's cell phone. At the time, the complainant was a minor who was in the legal custody of her mother, but had moved out to first live with her father and then her boyfriend, testimony showed. Madison testified her mother yelled at her.

Judge Oakley found Jenny guilty of domestic violence and sentenced her to a

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POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON **Wednesday, September 28th, 2022 at 10 am**, at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle(s) will be held:

2022 Ford, Edge, VIN: 2FMPK4J92NBA47643
2006 Chevrolet, Cobalt, VIN: 1G1AK55F267638851

DATE: September 19, 2022 **BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**
PUBLISH: September 22, 2022 **6 MAIN STREET**
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111
BY BRIANA HOOTMAN,
CITY CLERK



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 - 7:30 pm
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

The regular meeting of the City Council was held via a hybrid of in-person and virtual access through ZOOM.

The regular meeting of the Belleville City Council was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Bates	Present
Council Member Henry	Present
Council Member Jones	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

- A. Presentations
- 1) None
 - 2) Council Follow Up List
 - 3) Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items
- 1) Jennifer Delano
- a) Stated that the Senior Transportation Board recently met to discuss the program, and noted that the vehicle used for transportation is currently out of service due to a need for repairs. She also offered to answer any questions regarding the program, and mentioned that she would like to set up a meeting between the Senior Transportation Board and City Council.
- 2) John Juriga
- a) Recommended Council Member Steve Jones to replace former Deputy City Manager Tim McLean.
- 3) Therese Antonelli
- a) Reminded everyone about the annual Scarecrow Contest.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Henry to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of Item D, regarding repairs of the Senior Transportation vehicle.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 1, 2022, Regular Meeting of the City Council

MOTION: Motion by Jones, supported by Voigt to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, August 15, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A. Amendment to Juvenile Responsibility Ordinance
a. No motion was made regarding the amendment, and discussion took place to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the amendment. The hearing is scheduled for the next regular meeting of the City Council on September 19th.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A) Discussion – BORA/DORA Expansion

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Henry approving expansion of the BORA/DORA district to include the new development at N. Liberty and Main St.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

B) Discussion – Park Maintenance

1. Council Member Bates discussed maintenance of the City's parks, including items that she would like to see addressed, as follows:
 - i. Locks installed on bathroom doors within all parks
 - ii. Weeds removed from all parks
 - iii. Swings replaced in Village Park
- C) Closure of City Hall – Week of Christmas Day/ New Year's Day

MOTION: Motion by Jones, supported by Bates approving the closure of City Hall from Monday, December 26th through Friday, December 30th, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

1. Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt

Aye

Mayor Conley

Aye

Motion Carried.

D) Repair of Senior Transportation Vehicle

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Henry approving payment for repairs of the Senior Transportation vehicle, not to exceed \$5,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Jones to approve **Resolution #22-057** authorizing Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

• City Manager Robinson noted that Deputy City Manager and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Director, Tim McLean, has resigned. He further stated that all DDA business will be handled by himself, and the City Clerk until a DDA Director can be hired.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- Council Member Bates
- Thanked the City Manager and City Clerk for handling all DDA business following McLean's departure.
- Stated that Fall is on its way, and noted that Belleville is beautiful in the Fall.
- Is excited for new businesses in the City to open.
- Council Member Jones
- Noted that Van Buren Public Schools will be back in session on Thursday, September 8th.
- Mentioned that the Art Factory will be holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, September 7th, at 5 p.m.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt
- Noted that Goat Day in the City was a success, and thanked Ann Richendollar and Council Member Jones for their assistance with the event.

-- Stated that applications for veteran banners are now available.

-- Informed everyone that the Arts Council will be hosting Art in the Parking Lot at Belleville High School on Sunday, September 11th from 1-5 p.m.

-- Thanked all attendees at the meeting.

• Council Member Henry

-- Excited for new businesses that will opening up, and noted that Belleville Bait and Tackle restaurant is closer to opening.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Thanked Scott Jones for clearing the end of High St., providing additional views of Belleville Lake.
- Noted that Friday, September 9th, is the first home football game at Belleville High School.
- Stated that the BHS Marching Band has returned from camp.
- Is excited to see students heading back to school for the year.

-- Excited for new businesses that will opening up, and noted that Belleville Bait and Tackle restaurant is closer to opening.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Garrett Kissel
- Stated that he and another Belleville Fire Fighter visited schools within the district to get new maps of each building, along with an approximate number of students attending, to be prepared should an incident arise.
- Becky Hasen
- Reminded everyone about the City Wide Yard Sale on September 10th and 11th.
- Tom Fielder
- Inquired about the current status of the museum.
- Therese Antonelli
- Stated she would like to see electrical service installed in 4th Street Square, as she feels that events in the area are hindered due to a lack of electricity.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

Council Member Bates asked to have park maintenance added to the Council follow-up list.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Briana Hootman / City Clerk

Approved: September 19, 2022

Posted: September 20, 2022

Published: September 22, 2022

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 273 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Sept. 11:

0001 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0044 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
0257 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0422 – domestic, McKinley St.
0614 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0725 – assist fire dept., W. Huron River Dr.
0729 – 911 welfare check, E. Walden Dr.
0946 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Harmony Ln.
1039 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1141 – suspicious person/vehicle, Michigan Ave. / Dellor St.
1204 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1208 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.
1221 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1257 – malicious destruction of property, Van Born Rd./Sheldon Rd.
1349 – abandoned auto, Belleville Rd./Westlake Cir.
1416 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1428 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1431 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1441 – parking complaint, S. Timberview Dr.
1545 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1611 – family trouble, Greenwood Dr.
1739 – assist other dept., Michigan Ave.
1824 – property damage accident, bypass / Michigan Ave.
1841 – assist other dept., Michigan Ave./Denton
1903 – 911 welfare check, N. Bellridge Dr.
1935 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
2127 – suicidal person, Maple Dr.
2147 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.

2213 – noise complaint, Outer Dr.
2220 – welfare check, rest area
2241 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Edwards Rd.
2320 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2333 – PPO violation, Parkwood Dr.
2353 – family trouble, Arcadia Ct.

Monday, Sept. 12:

0141 – assist other dept., E. Schooner Dr.
0339 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0647 – intrusion alarm, Timberview Ct.
0705 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0844 – welfare check, Country Walk Blvd.
0844 – larceny, Van Born Rd.
0935 – suspicious person/vehicle, Savage Rd.
0940 – family trouble, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

1027 – larceny, Water's Edge Ln.
1043 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1118 – larceny from auto, Village Green Ln.
1124 – abandoned auto, Van Born Rd./Belleville
1201 – welfare check, S. Timberview Dr.
1202 – property damage accident, McBride Ave.
1241 – welfare check, Van Buren St.
1436 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1551 – follow up by officer, Belleville Rd.
1606 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1620 – disorderly Quirk Rd.
1739 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1805 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
1852 – property check, Harmony Ln.
1947 – property check, Belleville Rd.
1958 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2132 – welfare check, Springwood Blvd.
2203 – traffic offense, McBride Ave.

Tuesday, Sept. 13:

0123 – Menards property check, Belleville Rd.
0219 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hull Rd./Elwell
0622 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Dartmoor Cir.
0715 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
0727 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lake Point Blvd.
0840 – civil matter, Lighthouse Dr.
0853 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0955 – assist other dept., Sonrisa St.
1147 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1244 – civil matter, America
1326 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1450 – intrusion alarm, Kouza Ct.

1512 – trespassing, Ecorse Rd.
1517 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Owen
1543 – larceny, Harmony Ln.
1705 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
1725 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1825 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk
1835 – assault & battery, Tyler Rd.
1911 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1919 – welfare check, Outer Dr.
2134 – intrusion alarm, Hannan Rd.
2148 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2147 – threat, W. Huron River Dr.
2312 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
2315 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, Sept. 14:

0027 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sawgrass Ct.
0043 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
0147 – noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0236 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Timberview Dr. / Cedarhurst Dr.
0253 – assist other dept., E. Columbia/Madelon
0256 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0310 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
0642 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./S. I-94 Service
0703 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
0806 – personal injury accident, Michigan Ave.
0823 – larceny from auto, Sondra Dr.
0905 – assist fire dept., Victoria St./Winchester St.
1013 – parking complaint, Oak Ln.
1050 – vehicle impound, Beckley Rd.
1138 – larceny from auto, Edwards Rd.
1140 – larceny from auto, Amanda Dr.
1206 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tavistock Dr.
1309 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1330 – fraud, Elwell Rd.
1359 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.
1403 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1505 – warrant arrest, S. Wayne Rd.
1534 – traffic offense, Belleville/Yost
1625 – mental subject, E. Huron River Dr.
1641 – larceny from auto, Buchanan St.
1948 – welfare check, Milton Dr.
1946 – family trouble, Bradley Dr.
2057 – civil matter, Oak Ln.
2108 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
2106 – suspicious person/vehicle, Locust Dr.
2138 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Pointe

Estates

2205 – welfare check, Sondra Dr.

Thursday, Sept. 15:

0649 – parking complaint, Chandler Dr.
0651 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0819 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
0826 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0957 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Southport

Apts.

1123 – abandoned auto, Van Born Rd./Belleville
1127 – suspicious person/vehicle, Edwards Rd.
1213 – civil matter, Oak Ln.
1226 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1243 – welfare check, Bayshore Dr.
1330 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan
1415 – larceny, Quirk Rd.
1440 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1503 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1523 – animal complaint, S. Timberview Dr.
1542 – juvenile complaint, Savage Rd.
1557 – dumping complaint, Belleville Rd.
1653 – family trouble, N. Bellridge Dr.
1710 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
1813 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1835 – missing person, Belleville Rd.
1949 – larceny from auto, Anna Dr.
2013 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2206 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.

Friday, Sept. 16:

0738 – intrusion alarm, Colony Ln.
0820 – assist other dept., Hull Rd./Sumpter Rd.
0855 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1006 – found property/child, Quirk Rd.
1041 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
1116 – found property/child, Belleville Rd.
1159 – assist other dept., Carmell
1431 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1446 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1648 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.

1720 – family trouble, Bradley Dr.
2006 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2025 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2052 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2102 – property check, Lighthouse Dr.

2130 – welfare check, McKinley St.
2149 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
2201 – animal complaint, Jeremy Rd.
2331 – private property impound, Kirkridge Park
2338 – disorderly, Rose Blvd.
Saturday, Sept. 17:
0215 – suspicious person/vehicle, Freedom Way
0228 – breaking & entering, Denton Rd.
0253 – suspicious person/vehicle, Congress St.
0327 – suspicious activity report, Kirkridge Park
0646 – suspicious person/vehicle, McKinley St.
0838 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0845 – malicious destruction of property, Sumpter
0849 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1104 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
1249 – neighbor trouble, Anna Dr.
1301 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1310 – traffic offense, Wheeler St./McKinley St.
1344 – civil matter, Holly Ln.
1351 – suspicious person/vehicle, Riggs Rd.
1409 – unattended death, Lenmoore Ave.
1533 – intrusion alarm, Bmis Rd.
1604 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1716 – disorderly, Edison Lk.
1754 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville
1849 – welfare check, McKinley St.
1914 – breaking & entering, W. Huron River Dr.
2027 – assault & battery, Winchester St.
2145 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River
2313 – domestic, Lake Villa Dr.
2331 – suspicious person/vehicle, Anna Dr.

Also on this week's log are 65 traffic stops, with five of those on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Sept. 11:

0102 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0121 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
0132 – assist other dept., Menlo Park Dr.
0218 – traffic stop, Roys St./Main St.
0448 – assist other dept., McKinley St.
0832 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St. / E. Huron River Dr.
0921 – domestic, Belle Villa Blvd.
1553 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.
1740 – noise complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.

Monday, Sept. 12:

0602 – traffic stop, Roys St./Main St.
1004 – vehicle lockout, W. Columbia Ave.
1139 – private property impound, Belle Villa Blvd.
1151 – 911 welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1624 – breaking & entering, Menlo Park Dr.
1751 – private property impound, Menlo Park Dr.
1821 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia Ave. / High St.
2314 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.

Tuesday, Sept. 13:

0025 – traffic stop, Main St./E. Huron River Dr.
1256 – misc. complaint, Owen St.
1759 – assist fire dept., Harbour Pointe Dr.
1925 – domestic, Carmell St.
2112 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Fifth St.
2153 – assist other dept., Potter Dr.
2211 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.

Wednesday, Sept. 14:

0001 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.
0239 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./Madelon St.
1321 – domestic, Carmell St.
1638 – family trouble, Loza Ln.
1956 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
2338 – traffic offense, WB Huron River @ Elwell

Thursday, Sept. 15:

1304 – property damage accident, W. Davis St.
1417 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1634 – property damage accident, Fifth St./Main
1706 – traffic offense, Main St./High St.
1802 – assist other dept., Clarence St.
1820 – missing person, Belleville Area Museum
2029 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2105 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
2120 – suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.
2248 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Edison

Friday, Sept. 16:

0821 – traffic offense, Sumpter Rd./South St.
1153 – family trouble, Carmell St.
1230 – malicious destruction of property, Carmell
1405 – private property/property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
1510 – property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.

1540 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1558 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Huron River Dr.
1828 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.
1941 – follow up by officer, Carmell St.
1941 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
2017 – 911 welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
2142 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
2147 – animal complaint, N. Liberty St./E. Huron River Dr.
2247 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Angola St.
2356 – suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.

Saturday, Sept. 17:

0210 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
0821 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1535 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
1933 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2151 – intrusion alarm, Church St.

There were 16 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Sept. 11:

0028 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
0219 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0305 – death investigation, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0919 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
0945 – larceny, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1504 – follow-up investigation, Delaware St.
1515 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
1628 – mental health call, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1957 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
2031 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
2159 – suspicious circumstance, Wayside Dr.

Monday, Sept. 12:

0828 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
0957 – found property, Mulberry Dr.
1011 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1118 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1205 – welfare check, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1340 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1346 – follow-up investigation, 50000 bl. Willis
1350 – civil matter, Magnolia St.
1422 – family trouble, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1603 – suspicious person, Harris Rd./Sumpter Rd.
1619 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
1653 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1701 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1733 – disorderly person, New Mexico St.
1801 – suspicious vehicle, California St. / E. Arizona St.

1810 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2030 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Traskos Dr.
2139 – 911 hang up, Tulip Dr.
2234 – obstruct police, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.

Tuesday, Sept. 13:

0132 – shots fired, Nevada St.
0253 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0734 – larceny, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.
1154 – suspicious circumstance, Arizona St.
1258 – civil matter, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1342 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
1736 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1843 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2002 – disorderly person, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
2015 – family trouble, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
2211 – 911 hang up, Brookview Dr.
2258 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.

Wednesday, Sept. 14:

0128 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
0853 – follow-up investigation, 50000 bl. Willis
1038 – fraud complaint, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1114 – suspicious circumstance, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1542 – citizen assist, California St.
1556 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1749 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
2019 – citizen assist, Judd Rd./Haggerty Rd.

Thursday, Sept. 15:

0851 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Willow Rd.
1101 – suspicious person, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1125 – suspicious person, Birch Dr.
1152 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1655 – suspicious circumstance, Hampshire Dr.
1741 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1759 – death investigation, 17000 bl. Martinsville

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VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

FORGOTTEN HARVEST IS MOVING!

Due to the upcoming Community Center construction at Township Hall, the VBT Forgotten Harvest Mobile Pantry is **moving to Wayne County Community College—Ted Scott Campus!**

NEW LOCATION:

Wayne County Community College—Ted Scott Campus
9555 Haggerty Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111

NEW DATES:

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month

Starting Tuesday, Sept. 20

(Pantry will take place on Sept. 6 & Sept. 13 at Township Hall)

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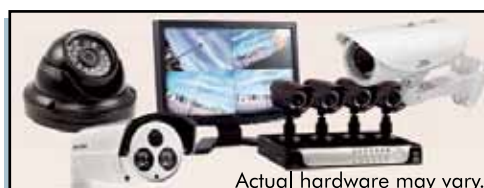
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Court watching

(continued from page 21)

delayed sentence of 12 months, at which time the charge would be dismissed if there is no further problem. He also ordered some counseling, but it may be a new program or the conventional anger management. He will let her know. Also, she was fined \$500 in court costs.

"She did not let me know where she was," Jenny said of her daughter. She also was paying for the cell phone.

Madison thanked the judge for holding her mother accountable for her actions. She said she now is in her second year of nursing at the University of Toledo. Judge Oakley suggested Madison have counseling as well because in the future she may want to have a relationship with her mother.

"Hear my heart," Judge Oakley said.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 22)

2239 – welfare check, Georgia St.

2333 – suspicious person, 8200 bl. Rawsonville

Friday, Sept. 16:

0043 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Rawsonville Rd./Rustic Ln.

0243 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.

0800 – animal complaint, Sherwood Rd./Willow

0843 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter/Harris

1031 – suspicious circumstance, Sumpter/Bemis

1051 – 911 hangup, Texas St.

1201 – neighbor dispute, 17000 bl. Martinsville

1302 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1311 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter/Willis

1332 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1403 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

1423 – alarm, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.

1440 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1544 – civil matter, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.

2227 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.

2321 – mental health call, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.

Saturday, Sept. 17:

0046 – suspicious person, 51000 bl. Willis

1317 – malicious destruction of property, Virginia

1327 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1354 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1419 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.

1808 – family trouble, Hampshire Dr.

1917 – felony warrant arrest, Bemis Rd./Savage

1958 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willis/Sumpter

2030 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

2059 – shots fired, Creekside Dr.

Also on this week's log are 191 patrol checks, 43 traffic stops, and 26 misc. details.

"Get some counseling." He said that will help her with her schooling, as well.

Lamarcus B. Shields

Lamarcus B. Shields of Flint was charged with uttering and publishing on Dec. 1 in Sumpter Township. On Jan. 19 he was arraigned by Judge Green and his appointed attorney Blasé Kearney said he needed discovery on the charge of uttering and publishing at a bank.

He said he'll need bank video and body camera footage of the victim. Prosecutor Gillis said the defendant is disabled and his sister helps him. The probable cause conference was set for Feb. 16 and the live preliminary exam for Feb. 23. On Feb. 23, Shields pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge and the original charge was dropped.

Shields said the check had his name on it and it was not for more than \$500. He told the judge he is not working, gets SSI benefits, and has a caregiver. Judge Oakley fined him \$500 in fines and costs, with no probation.

Farnetino Rafael McQueen

Farnetino Rafael McQueen, 35, of Van Buren Township was charged with operation while intoxicated-2nd, driving while license suspended-2nd and possessing a pistol while intoxicated on June 19, 2021 in the City of Belleville. He was set for a remote show cause, arraignment, and pre-trial on Feb. 23. The remote final pretrial was set for March 23 and then reset to April 6 and then May 11. Then it was adjourned to June 1 because the prosecution was waiting on blood results. McQueen is out on \$10,000 personal bond.

On June 1, the final pretrial was adjourned until June 15, since they were still waiting for results of the blood test.

On June 15, McQueen's attorney Antonio Tuddles said they are in the last stages of a plea deal and asked for another adjournment to July 6. On that date it was adjourned until Aug. 10 for a remote pretrial. On Aug. 10 it was adjourned to Aug. 17 and then to Sept. 7 because attorney Tuddles said he needed the blood alcohol test results.

On Sept. 7, Tuddles did not appear in court, but McQueen waited for several hours on zoom until Judge Oakley told him the court session would be adjourned. The new date was set for Sept. 21 and on court records it showed the attorney as "failed to appear."

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